

Being Confident Philip. 1:1-11 (Acts 16) ①
I was preaching at Dade Co Jail a few weeks ago. I preach usually outside in the recreation area. This rather large group of men began to file through. As he walked thru the door our eyes met. Immediately his head hung down. Not the first time I had seen him. A month or so ago he lived across the street from me. He said that he was saved under my preaching @ Dade Co a while back. I started taking him to his A & A Classes. Counselled with him on Bible reading and encouraged him to live for the Lord. I hoped he had turned things around. But there he was. This wasn't the first time either this has happened. It really takes the wind out of your sails. And when I thud out the Gospel down at the jail or mission or church, there is the whisper in my ear from Salem "Changed lives Huh, some change, must be a seasonal thing" 90 day trial offer. How can you and I be confident that what we know as Salvation will continue, will go on, that we will make it over the long haul. D... I cries us this answer

I. The Starting of a Past Work ^{very good work}

A. Paul is writing to the Church @ Philippi. Not an address, or building but an assembly or body of people.

Called out ones, one's God has started

B. A Wretched Plight - Can't born saved. ^{Acts 16}
There was a time prior to this work begun

1. Religious - Acts 16:14 - worshipped God, but no gospel invasion, ... hell had bumper
2. Wicked - vs 16-19 - Woman possessed by devils sorcery, fortune telling, full of the devil
3. Ruthless - vs 23-24 - word thrust is to hurt or throw violently, antagonistic

C. A Redeemed Past - This small nucleus all had a starting point in Acts 16
God began a work. Notice Philip 1:7.

Partakers of my grace. This grace of God that Paul preached & demonstrated to them, they participated in first hand. Past had been redeemed.

John Jasper - One July morning something happened
Lydia - down by river, possessed demon - came Paul sailed

D. A Resurrected Present - Philip 1:9-11

They are walking in the newness of life. have abounded more in knowledge & judgment filled with righteous fruits. As John Baptist would say bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. Faith w/o works is dead no faith at all.

II. The Sovereign Over a Perfecting Work^{He} Which³

A. This past work has been started but make for sure you know who started it! Not drummed up self help, Not a do better parade!

B. A Sovereign work of Conviction - Acts 16:14

this encountered by river was not that of a consumer and used car salesman. The Lord opened her heart. Not the approach, outline, personality God took truth & open heart. We are not talking people into

C. A Sovereign work of Condemnation - vs 18 - He just got sick of it, turned around and began to throw some commands around, But he raised his voice, pointed a finger, delivered a heaven sent directive. Bug eyes, crooked nose, short, Jew Paul. Preacher

D. A Sovereign work of Casting^{@ Paul} vs 18 "came out" Paul in himself had no power to cast out. This was work of God. Immediately devils out Her masters knew it was all over. Such a dramatic change. Remember the change, devils chased out of you

E. A Sovereign work of Conversion - vs 33.

Conversion, gone the other way, repentance Before ruthlessly hurl into prison, may have even put a few lashes on himself. See guards tenderly, with tears, bandage up the stripes,...

F. A Sovereign work of Continuation - Seen in Acts according to history to place between AD 50-55, The Epistle of Philippians written between 60-64. Shortest 8 years longest 14 years. (1st to 2nd ... 1st to 2nd / vs 40) 3rd to 4th / 1st to 2nd / 3rd to 4th

III. The Surety of A Prevailing Work 1:0 &

A. Apostle Paul communicated a rock solid confidence, that this work would prevail cause there was a Sovereign God seeing to this work. I can't start & keep going a mens prayer soon. ^{God trust me? for} Prep up

B. Prevail Despite Our Stumbling - Oh I tell you about a verse to settle doubts, when we fall into sin, when we stumble, the devils #1 whisper is you are not going to make it,

you are all washed up, your not cut out to live a christian life... If God truly started a work ^{In 6:29 This is the work of God.} He will.

C. Prevail Due to the Saviour - Just as sure as Christ rose from the dead, eternal life is assured to all those that believe. 1 Tim 1:12 I know whom I have believed in.... He is alive. 1 Cor 1:7-8 Waiting for the ^{coming} of our L. Jesus C., who shall confirm unto the end, that ye may be ^{blissed in the day of our L. X.} that ye may be

D. Prevail Due to the Demonstration of The Saints This is a work of God & Christ will see it through but God uses His saints in this prevailing work. Vs 7. Paul had a loving and a love for them. Read 4:1. He had a gush of love for them Vs 3-5 Prayed for them. M. Henry "The Best remembrance of our friends is to remember them at the throne of grace."

IV. Conclusion I am usually not one to preach to people about having confidence. I'm usually telling you you need to live a completely dependent life upon God. But today I am telling you to have confidence, Not self conf. but God confidence. ^{God will make you.}